



In This Issue:

Gov. Togiola thanks all who contributed to the success of Arts Festival
Pg. 2

Governor renames Utulei beach "Su'igaula"
Pg. 2

DOH confirms 2 cases of dengue fever
Pg. 3

Public Works revises Territory Transportation Improvement Program
Pg. 3

DHSS announces availability of funds for developmental disabilities
Pg. 4

Historical Notes & much, much more...

For additional news, information and much, much more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.americansamoa.gov>

First Lady closes Ta'ita'itama summer program with encouraging words

First Lady Maryann Tulafono officially closed the Ta'ita'itama summer program by telling the more than 300 local youngsters in attendance at Suigaula Village in Utulei Beach to believe in themselves, follow their hearts, and don't ever let anybody tell them that they are not good enough to do anything.

"Stay away from drugs and believe in what you know in your heart," the First Lady said, adding that dreaming big is not a bad thing, as one day, one of them will be living at the Government House at Mauga-o-Ali'i.

"Stay away from drugs and believe in what you know in your heart"
First Lady Maryann Tulafono

The Ta'ita'itama Leadership program to keep children alcohol free included the participation of various groups and organizations like the Football (soccer) Federation of American Samoa, the island-wide volleyball association, the Gear Up program, the 4-H program, Le Tausagi's Enviro-Discoveries program, the Fagaloa Development Basketball group, the American Samoa Basketball Association, the AS Swimming Association, the AS Table Tennis Association, the AS Little League Baseball Association, and local high school football teams save for the Nu'uuli Vo-Tech Wildcats.

Youngsters enjoyed a day of sports and entertainment with various games and fun activities.

The First Lady reminded the youngsters that they have a right to resist and if they ever needed help, they could always talk to their parents, school mates, and counselors. "There are a lot of people around you so you are not alone," she said.

Each participating program was given a chance to go up one by one to receive free Ta'ita'itama t-shirts and a gift bag presented by the First Lady, who chairs the Ta'ita'itama program, and vice-chairperson Violet Richmond who posed for pictures with representatives of each respective group.

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings FM 104. 7

Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124

Governor Togiola thanks everyone who contributed to the success of the Arts Festival

Monday, August 4th, was declared by Governor Togiola Tulafono as a public holiday in the territory to honor everyone who contributed to the successful hosting of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts.

At Utulei Beach, more than 1,000 local residents of all ages gathered to hear the Governor announce the renaming of a section of Utulei Beach “Suigaula” to commemorate the Festival theme: “Suigaula a le Atuvasa.” (See separate story for details).

The gathering included the presence of Tokelau Government representative Nasau Kuresa and some member of the Tongan delegation.

In his remarks, Togiola thanked everyone who contributed to the success of the Arts Festival, saying that despite the high cost of living and the expenses of everyday living, the local business community, individuals, schools, and organizations came together to provide financial support that off-set the Festival expenses.

According to the Governor, American Samoa showed great unity in hosting the Festival, as everybody from individuals to private sector organizations, churches, and villages came together as one.

Togiola acknowledged the in-kind donations made to the Festival committee from various construction companies like Fletcher Construction and McConnell Dowell, as well as American Samoa’s ambassadors which included the hundreds of volunteers and government employees who worked closely with the visiting delegates.

The Governor was pleased to announce that during his visits with various delegations, he was given positive feedback from many of the visitors about local residents. He said that the visitors called him ‘lucky,’ describing the people of American Samoa as courteous and smart. Togiola agreed, saying that he is lucky, before thanking everyone for their “wonderful contribution.”

These comments garnered a round of applause from the crowd.

Togiola said that positive feedback was not only received from the delegates, but also from officials of participating countries who said that American Samoa was so clean and beautiful.

Togiola said the territory really stepped up to the plate, and he didn’t have enough words to express his gratefulness to everyone. “American Samoa has taken its place in all the international events, as we watch all the images of this Festival being played in all the media centers of the world,” he said.

The Governor said that American Samoa’s name is in the forefront of the media with all the compliments and positive comments from the news media representatives that were here during the Festival.

Togiola thanked all the villages for their hard work and encouraged everyone to continue to do the same thing and not stop, now that the Festival is over.

Togiola offered special thanks to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) whose 800 members volunteered to take on the clean-up of venues and other Festival locations.

Governor renames part of Utulei Beach “Su’igaula” in honor of Festival theme

Governor Togiola Tulafono has renamed a part of Utulei Beach “Su’igaula” after the theme for the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts – “Suigaula a le Atuvasa,” or (“Threading the Oceania Ula”).

Togiola made the announcement yesterday during a special celebration where more than 1,000 people of all ages came together with the Festival’s organizing committee at Utulei Beach to spend a day which was declared a holiday by the Governor to honor all the volunteers and those who worked hard to make the Festival a success.

“Su’igaula” is the area at Utulei Beach where seven new Samoan fale (faleo’o) were erected specifically for the celebration of the Arts Festival which officially concluded on July 30.

And although the Festival has come to a close, Togiola announced that the Samoan fale will remain a part of local beautification efforts.

Togiola explained that he decided on the name “Su’igaula” so future generations can remember what American Samoa achieved in 2008 when she was called upon to host close to 2,000 delegates and VIPs from around the Pacific region.

DOH confirms two cases of dengue fever

Department of Health medical director Dr. Ivan Tuliau reports that two cases of dengue fever have been confirmed this week, but both patients are doing well.

So far this year, a total of five dengue fever cases have been reported locally while Samoa's Ministry of Health has recorded six confirmed cases of dengue fever since the beginning of June.

According to Tuliau, one of the two recent cases involves a Festival delegate from Samoa while the other is a local resident. Samoa's Ministry of Health issued a warning a week before the Arts Festival about a possible dengue fever outbreak in the independent state, saying that the number of cases is expected to increase.

Tuliau however explained that the number of locals with dengue fever is normal and the figure is too low to be considered an outbreak.

"DOH continues to urge out community to continue to take preventive measures against dengue. Prevention is the key word that our community should focus attention on and we have been very fortunate this year, with less cases of dengue," Tuliau said.

Prevention measures, according to DOH, should include cleaning around the homes and areas within the villages to rid the territory of mosquito breeding grounds, as mosquitoes carry the deadly virus that spreads dengue fever.

DOH advises everyone to protect themselves by wearing long sleeve shirts, pants, socks, and shoes. Additionally, the public is urged to use mosquito repellant that contains "DEET" on exposed skin.

In the meantime, DOH is compiling its final report on all health related issues that took place during the Arts Festival, during which time no time major cases were recorded except for the death of a delegate from the Solomon Islands.

Public Works revises Territory Transportation Improvement Program for FY '08-'10

The Department of Public Works has revised the previously approved Territory Transportation Improve-ment Program (TTIP) for fiscal years 2008-2010. The revision is referred to as "Amendment Number 2" and the public is being provided the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.

The amendment is available for review at the Department of Public Works – Civil Highway Division (CHD) office at the DPW compound in Tafuna.

A public meeting has been scheduled for Friday, August 15 at 2 p.m. at the Public Works conference room on the second floor of the DPW building in Tafuna to discuss the proposed amendments.

The deadline to comment on the amendment must be received no later than 4 p.m. on August 12.

All written comments must be addressed to:

Taeaotui Punafofo Tilei, DPW Director
Attn: Civil Highway Division Office
Department of Public Works
American Samoa Government

Any questions or comments regarding the TTIP can be referred to DPW – Civil Highway Division at 699-9921/9922/9923.

Administration bill to appropriate money for DPS vehicles introduced in the Fono

An Administration bill calling for the appropriation of \$67,000 to purchase and outfit two four-door pick-up trucks for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in the Manu'a Islands was introduced in the Senate and the House of Representatives yesterday.

Funding source for the bill comes from the special law enforcement revenue account which is funded by the \$10 traffic citation fees collected by the Court.

The bill goes into effect immediately upon passage by the Fono and approval of the Governor, "Due to the emergency need to fund new vehicles for the Department of Public Safety in the performance of critical functions concerning public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the territory."

DHSS announces availability of funds for developmental disabilities programs for FY09

The Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) has acknowledged the availability of funds for fiscal year 2009 (October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009) for programs that will help provide the necessary services to persons with developmental disabilities.

(The American Samoa Developmental Disabilities Planning Council provides funds to service providers that help provide necessary services to help improve the lives of persons with developmental disabilities).

All local government agencies and non-government organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities are encouraged to submit funding proposals. Submissions of funding proposals are due on August 22, 2008 and must be addressed to:

The Executive Director
American Samoa Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
P.O. Box 194
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Otherwise, interested parties may stop by the DD Council Office at the DHSS compound in Utulei, call 633-2696, or fax 633-2919.

ASG treasurer says there are enough funds to purchase police cars for Manu'a

Treasurer for the American Samoa Government Gaea Perefoti Failautusi has told Senate members that there is enough money in the special law enforcement account to purchase three new vehicles for the Manu'a Islands.

The issue is part of an Administration bill that proposes an appropriation of \$67,000 to purchase and outfit two four-door pick-up trucks for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) in the Manu'a Islands.

Funding source for the bill comes from the special law enforcement revenue account which is funded by the \$10 traffic citation fees collected by the Court.

According to Gaea, there is currently \$102,367.80 in the account. Acting Police Commissioner Filifaatali Mike Fuiava explained that the new police vehicles would not only serve law enforcement purposes but also other purposes relating to government need.

Currently, the Manu'a division of DPS has two vehicles and the Senate is now looking into amending the bill to provide not two but three vehicles for Manu'a.

The bill goes into effect immediately upon passage by the Fono and approval of the Governor, "Due to the emergency need to fund new vehicles for the Department of Public Safety in the performance of critical functions concerning public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the territory."

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On August 5, 2003, US Army Specialist Farao K. Letufuga, age 20, was killed in Mosul, Iraq when he fell from the roof of a building while on guard duty. He was the first Samoan soldier to die in Iraq.

On August 8, 1940, Captain Laurence Wild relieved Lieutenant Commander Jesse Rink Wallace and became American Samoa's 28th naval governor (until June 5, 1942).

On August 9, 1830, Reverend John Williams of the London Missionary Society set sail from Vavau, Tonga, en route to Samoa aboard his two-masted schooner the *Olive Branch* (later renamed the *Messenger of Peace* [*Savali o le Filemu*]), "a craft 20 metres long and with an 8 metre beam," which he built himself with wood from the *tamanu* tree, "using great ingenuity, and with virtually no machinery."

On August 11, 1931, American Samoa's Governor, Captain Gatewood Sanders Lincoln, prepared a report for the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral William Veazie Pratt, in which he said that the naval station was "capable of furnishing an anchorage, dock, radio communication, a limited amount of coal and water to ships, and doing a limited amount of repair. Personnel assigned to the station were there for the purpose of conducting the civil government of Samoa. He noted that seventy-two sailors and one Marine First Sergeant were assigned to the station. They carried out the following duties; Radio Station--total of 12 enlisted men. Operation and maintenance of the main radio station. Two radio stations in the Manu'a group. Two radio telephones at Leone and Amouli, Tutuila.; Medical Department and Public Health Service--23 enlisted men. Four men attached to the Navy dispensary on the station. Nineteen men attached to the Samoan hospital and to dispensaries in the villages; Public Works Department, Ice and Power Plants, and Machine Shop--6 men. Upkeep of Navy buildings and grounds, and the Island Government's public works, including roads and upkeep of vehicles; Fita Fita Guard and Band--2 enlisted men: the Marine drill sergeant, and the bandmaster. Governor--Commandant's Office--3 enlisted men. Chaplain's Office (Superintendent of Education)--1 enlisted man. Aids to navigation--1 enlisted man. The remaining twenty sailors performed duties concerning discipline, mess service, commissary service, naval clerical work, and care of naval equipment: Office of Supply Officer--2 enlisted men. Office of Disbursing Officer--1 enlisted man. Commissary Store, Butcher and Bake Shop--7 enlisted men. Galley--3 enlisted men. Master-at-Arms, Navy Barracks--1 enlisted man. Ships' Service Store--1 enlisted man. Care, repair and maintenance of boats--3 enlisted men. Captain of the Yard's Office--1 enlisted man. Armory and Magazine--1 enlisted man. Lincoln concluded by noting that the station had a 3-inch field piece and four 3-pounder saluting guns. He recommended turning in the field piece in return for two Browning automatic rifles, four Thompson submachine guns, and fifty tear gas bombs."

On August 15, 1830, John Williams and his shipmates aboard the *Olive Branch* sighted Savai'i. Williams recorded the event in his journal, writing that "The land was seen at 10 A.M. and about 3 P.M. we came up with it. We were filled with astonishment at the size and beauty of the island. It answered well the description by the French Navigators. A very large Island, equal to Tahiti in beauty, fertility and size."

Three local students travel to Quebec for World Youth Congress

American Samoa will be represented for the first time ever in Quebec, Canada during the 4th World Youth Congress scheduled to take place from August 10-21 by Samuel Meleisea, Ernest Haleck, and Amy Lefaga Seui. And while a number of American Samoa youth have participated in youth conferences off island like the Pacific Youth Festival in 2006, this is the first time American Samoa will be represented at the World Youth Congress.

Prior to their departure last night, the students were presented to Governor Togiola Tulafono by the director of the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs Leiataua Leuga Turner during a meeting on Wednesday.

The Governor was pleased with the selections and congratulated each of the participants before telling them to enjoy their trip and make the best of their experience in Quebec. The Governor said he is sure the three students are honored to be chosen to represent the territory based on their accomplishments through extracurricular activities not only in their schools but also within the community.

DYWA official Roy Ausage told the Tapuitema that the youth delegates were selected based on their active participation and involvement in youth activities and projects sponsored by each respective organization, and the cost for each delegate is being paid for by each organization.

Samuel Meleisea is the son of Peniamina and Julie Meleisea of Tafuna. He will be a senior at Tafuna High School this coming school year. He was selected by the Family Planning Program of the LBJ Medical Center under the directorship of Mrs. Tali Peau, in conjunction with the American Samoa Coalition on Teen Pregnancy Prevention (ASCTPP) co-chaired by Salausa Dr. John Ah Ching and Reverend Viliamu Leilua.

Ernest Haleck is the son of Rhine and Lafo Haleck of Pago Pago who will be attending Kanana Fou High School as a senior. He was selected by Mrs. Sandra King-Young, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Center for Educational Development (PICED).

Amy Lefaga Seui is the daughter of Motu Seui Jr. and Loloma Seui of Nu'uuli. She will be attending the American Samoa Community College as a freshman in the fall. Amy was selected by the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs.

The World Youth Congress will bring 600 of the world's most dynamic young activists representing 120 different countries in the field of sustainable development to Quebec, Canada. According to their website, the program offers a unique opportunity to meet and work alongside young people who are really doing things and going places.

The event sets a new standard for international youth events, and will be the largest and most inspirational gathering of its kind for young people taking place anywhere in the world in 2008. The website states that delegates will join forces with young Canadians to undertake hands-on community action projects across Quebec, and the program will help shape international policy by documenting and showing governments what young people are doing to achieve Millennium Development Goals.

Several different activities that will take place during the congress include the United Nations Youth Day on Climate Change, conferences on water and health, women and development and human rights, and collective entrepreneurship, job creation, and elimination of poverty.

The three students are being accompanied on the trip by DYWA program trainer/coordinator Cynthia Malala-Moliga.

"We acknowledge the commitment and contribution by Sandra King-Young of

PICED, Mrs. Tali Peau of the LBJ Medical Center's Family Planning Unit, and Mr. Richard Young, CEO of Origin Energy American Samoa who donated \$500.00," said Ausage.

According to DYWA, the youth delegates will be participating in a lot of sustainable development projects and upon their return, they will actively work with youth groups across the territory to push such projects. As an example, the trio will work to promote and host programs that collect plastic and soda cans from all over the island.

Territory allocated over \$7.3 million for WIC program for FY '08

The US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) released last Friday data showing that as of July 2008, over \$7.3 million has been allocated for fiscal year (FY) 2008 to American Samoa for the federally funded Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program administered by the Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS).

FNS statistics shows that of the total funding, \$5.4 million is from food grants while \$1.8 million is from the "nutrition services and administration" (NSA) grant which includes, among other things, certifying participants' eligibility, nutrition education, breastfeeding, promotion, healthcare coordination and referral, financial management, program integrity, and systems development and operations. (American Samoa was allocated a little more than \$30 million under the WIC program between FY '03 and FY '07).

WIC is and continues to be a wonderful benefit for local mothers and children of the territory. The program provides federal grants to states for supplemental food, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to five years old who are determined to be at nutritional risk.

DBAS seeking applications for CEO/President position

The Development Bank of American Samoa is currently advertising for the position of Chief Executive Officer/President, a position that has been vacant since former CEO/President Utu Abe Malae stepped down from the post several weeks ago to run for Governor of American Samoa in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

The financial institution's Board of Directors is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the position.

The Board is looking for a highly skilled, motivated person of sound character with the necessary education and experience that includes an MBA in banking or finance or closely related field, with 8-10 years of relevant experience.

Applicants must possess strong leadership and interpersonal skills; sound organizational and analytical skills; the ability to coordinate, manage and direct others; the ability to plan and execute; and a thorough knowledge of the banking industry in particular, development financing.

Compensation is regionally competitive and will commensurate with qualifications.

Qualified and interested applicants may submit a copy of their CV by post or courier to:

Development Bank of American Samoa
Pago Pago Park
PO Box 9
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799
Attention: Mary Malau'ulu

No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

Farm Service Agency offering "buy-in" for 2008 disaster programs

The Farm Service Agency, under the United States Department of Agriculture, is announcing that in order to be eligible for Disaster Programs in 2008, individuals must pay the fees for the eligibility "buy-in" at the local Farm Service Agency office by September 16, 2008.

Those who are limited resource producers, socially disadvantaged, or beginning farmers will have the fees waived for them.

The opportunity to "buy-in" to the disaster program by paying a catastrophic crop insurance fee or non-insured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) service fee for any 2008 crops that are not already covered under either programs, is due to the late passage of the Farm Bill in May.

The recently-enacted Farm Bill legislates numerous 2008 disaster programs covering losses to crops, trees/vines/bushes, forage, and other losses due to adverse weather. These programs require the crops that farmers planted, grew, or produced to have been covered by federal crop insurance or FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). All of the crops on all of the acreage must be covered, and not only those acres that suffered losses.

The eligibility "buy-in" must be completed by September 16 at the local FSA office to satisfy the requirement for total CI/NAP coverage. This does not provide the applicant with 2008 crop insurance indemnities or NAP benefits.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Farm Service Agency Office at 633-1031 ext. 126/127 or visiting them at the Pago Plaza Suite 213.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to:

Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov or Tialuga Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)